

# Rikki-Tikki Tavi

by  
**Rudyard Kipling**



# Rudyard Kipling

## 1865-1936



- ◆ Rudyard Kipling was born in Bombay, India where his father was a professor of art. When he was six, he and his sister were sent to school in England.
- ◆ When he was seventeen, Kipling returned to India and took a job as an editor with an English-language newspaper. Soon, the paper was printing Kipling's poems and tales about what he saw around him. Readers begged for more.
- ◆ Kipling's fame grew and over the next 50 years, he wrote dozens of books and won the Nobel Prize in literature.



# ***The Jungle Book (1894) & The Second Jungle Book (1895)***

- a collection of stories written by Kipling
- First published in magazines in 1893-1894.
- These stories are fables, using animals to give moral lessons.
- Most moral lessons involved rules for the safety of individuals, families and communities.
- Kipling wanted to include nearly everything he knew or “heard or dreamed about the Indian jungle” in his stories.



# **“Rikki-tikki-tavi”**

- Published as part of *The Jungle Book* stories, 1894
- Has been published more than once as a short book in its own right.
- Also adapted into an animated TV special by American animator Chuck Jones in 1975

# Setting

- *Setting* is the time and place in which the story occurs.
  - The time is the late 1800s
  - The location is in India
  - The location is a bungalow, an open airy house.
  - Climate is tropical





# History of British rule in India

- England became interested in India in the 1500s because of a thriving spice trade.
- The East India Company is formed and is granted the powers to maintain an army and a navy, declare war, and govern new territories.

# History of British rule in India

- The people of India, called Indians rebelled against the East India Company in 1857.
- England stepped in and took control of India and it became a colony until 1947.
- It finally gained independence in 1947 after a century-long struggle with the British government.



# Points of View

- **First-person** narrative uses the first person pronouns: I, me, my and mine. Here is a paragraph from a short story using first-person point of view. Find all the first-person pronouns.

– I walked down the dark, deserted alley. The silence broken only by the sound of my footsteps upon the recently wet asphalt. I slowed my pace for it seemed as if it was becoming darker the further I ventured into its depths. My vision could no longer give form to any object, not within arm's length. Suddenly, a slimy chill began to crawl up the inside of my right pants leg. Its smoothness wrapped first around my ankle, then began the ascent toward my calf.

# Points of View

- **Third person *limited*** narration is when the author tells the reader what one character thinks, feels, and observes. These stories use third person pronouns: he, she, it.
  - It's "limited" because we are limited to focusing on only one (or maybe two, at most) character's thoughts, feelings, etc. at a time—Not *EVERYONE'S*.
  - Susan was determined to make the team. She practiced for over a month, perfecting her kick into the net. Each afternoon after school, she walked to the soccer field, cleats in hand, a black and white striped ball tucked under her right arm. Her mind wandered and she envisioned herself standing in mid-field; her opponent's twin images of herself ready for the assault.

# Points of View

- **Third person *omniscient*** can read every character's mind and can predict the future. (*Greek: omni=all scient=knowing: all knowing*)
- "Rikki-Tikki Tavi" is told in third person omniscient narration. In the first two paragraphs the narrator is looking back at the events that make up Rikki-Tikki Tavi's history. What beings do we believe to be omniscient?



# There are 4 ways to learn about a character:

- Your author may describe a character's
  - **External** or **Internal** traits.
- Your author may reveal these traits:
  - **Indirectly** or **Directly**

# External Characterization

- Words provided by the author or narrator which describe the external appearance of a character.
- Example from “Rikki-tikki-tavi”
  - short, brown hair, bushy tail, quick legs, etc.
- Describe yourself using external characterization.

# Internal Characterization

- Words provided by the author or narrator which describe a character's (internal) personality.
- Examples: a character's fears, likes, dislikes, dreams, wishes, etc. To say that someone is "smart" is also an internal characteristic.
- Example from "Rikki-tikki-tavi":
  - Rikki-tikki is proud at the end of the story.



# Direct Characterization

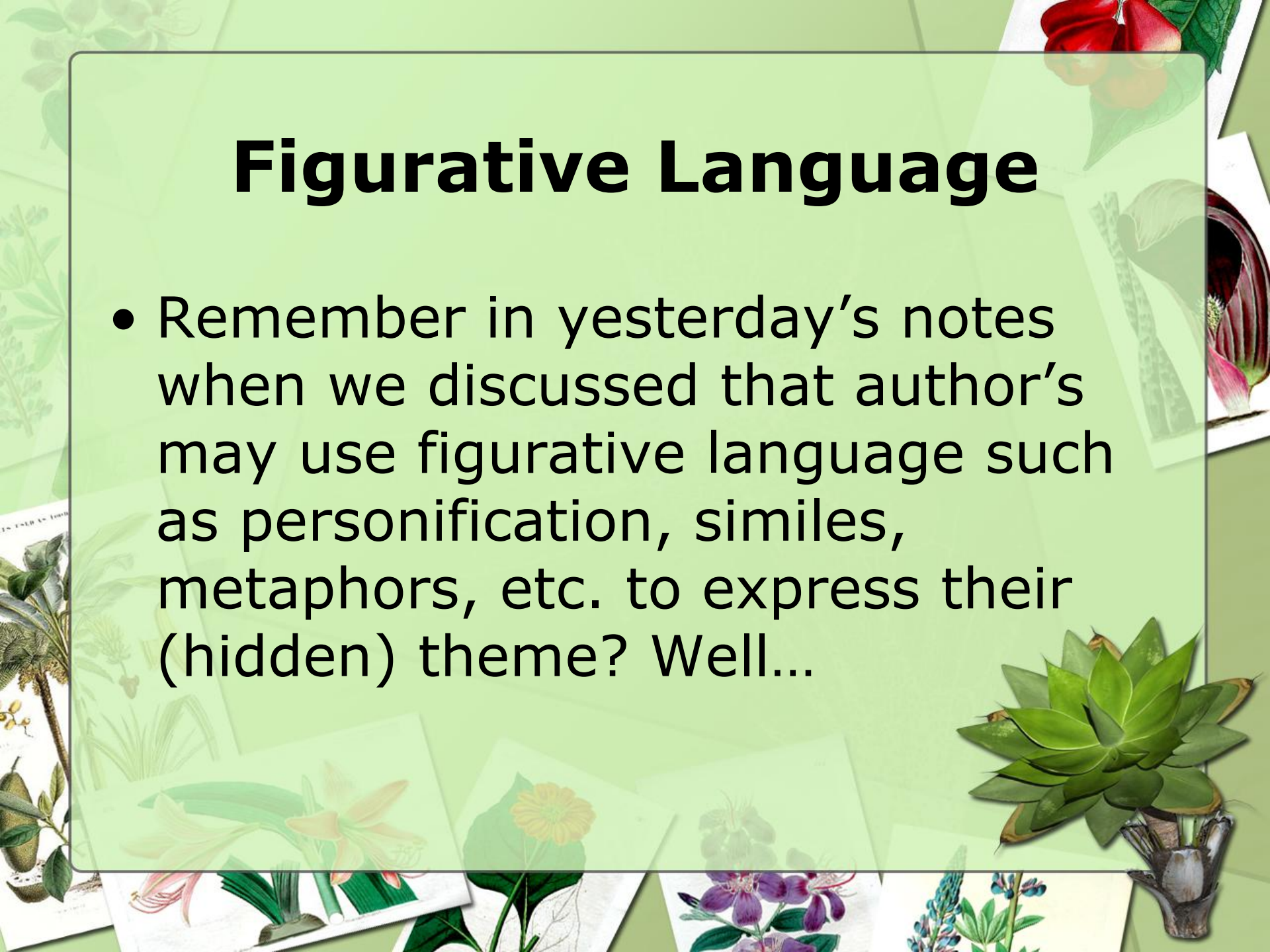
- "He was a mongoose, rather like a little cat in his fur and his tail, but quite like a weasel in his head and his habits. His eyes and the end of his restless nose were pink; he could scratch himself anywhere he pleased, with any leg, front or back, that he chose to use; he could fluff up his tail till it looked like a bottle-brush, and his war-cry, as he scuttled through the long grass, was: "*Rikk-tikk-tikki-tikki-tchk!*"
- We can use this passage to describe Rikki's physical appearance (external characteristics), and since the author stated these details directly instead of having another character describe him, we can say this is an example of **direct characterization**.

# Indirect Characterization

- “This is a splendid hunting-ground,” he said, and his tail grew bottle-brushy at the thought of it, and he scuttled up and down the garden, snuffing here and there till he heard very sorrowful voices in a thorn-bush.”
  - We can use this quote to **infer** that Rikki- Tikki is \_\_\_\_\_  
(What adjective would you use to describe him?)
- **What does it mean “to infer”?** Well, notice that the word you chose does not appear in the passage we see here. You needed to read between the lines (make an inference) by analyzing Rikki’s actions in order to determine how best to describe him.
- Calling him \_\_\_\_\_ based on this passage was an example of **indirect characterization**.

# Figurative Language

- Remember in yesterday's notes when we discussed that author's may use figurative language such as personification, similes, metaphors, etc. to express their (hidden) theme? Well...





# Personification

- When we give human-like qualities to animals, objects, or ideas it is called **personification**.
- Common examples include books running, trees dancing, wind howling, etc.
- Examples taken from “Rikki-tikki”:
  - animals talking (*such as the snakes, birds, and mongooses who talk to each other.*)

# Simile

- A comparison of two unlike things using the words “like” or “as”.
- Example taken from “Rikki-tikki”:
  - *Rikki-tikki’s eyes were “hot like coal” (p 21).*

# Onomatopoeia

- Words that imitate the sound associated with its action or meaning.
- Common examples: hiss, zip, bang
- Example taken from “Rikki-tikki”:
  - “Rikk-tikk-tikki-tikki-tchk” (Rikki-tikkki’s war cry)



# Hyperbole

- Extreme exaggeration used for emphasis or effect
- Example:
  - *“I’m so hungry, I could eat a whole cow!”*

# Review the following:

- Author's background
- Setting
- Point of View
- Characterization:
  - Indirect and direct
  - External and internal
- Figurative Language:
  - Personification
  - Simile
  - Onomatopoeia
  - Hyperbole
- Vocabulary Words in Context